

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, and 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 91, “Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter contains the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting. The proposed amendments adjust the season dates to comply with United States Fish and Wildlife Service regulations and to ensure the seasons open on weekends. The proposed amendments also remove the bag limit on light geese during the conservation order season as studies indicate the population can withstand it, and doing so increases hunter opportunity. Light geese include white and blue-phase lesser snow geese and Ross’ geese.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before May 23, 2013. Written comments may be directed to the Wildlife Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; by e-mail at wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov; or by fax at (515)281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their comments orally may contact the Wildlife Bureau by telephone at (515)281-5034 or by visiting the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building during regular business hours.

There will be a public hearing on May 23, 2013, at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room, Fourth Floor, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. At the public hearing, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Participants will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and request specific accommodations.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found since most changes are simply due to shifts in calendar dates. The change in the bag limit for light geese during the conservation order is not expected to affect license sales or hunter interest.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48. The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrules 91.1(2) to 91.1(4) as follows:

91.1(2) *Season dates - north zone.* For all ducks: September ~~22~~ 21 through September ~~26~~ 25 and October ~~13~~ 12 through December ~~6~~ 5.

91.1(3) *Season dates - south zone.* For all ducks: September ~~22~~ 21 through September ~~26~~ 25 and October ~~20~~ 19 through December ~~13~~ 12.

91.1(4) *Season dates - Missouri River zone.* For all ducks: September ~~22~~ 21 through September ~~26~~ 25 and October ~~27~~ 26 through December ~~20~~ 19.

ITEM 2. Amend subrules 91.3(2) to 91.3(4) as follows:

91.3(2) *Season dates - north zone.* Canada geese and brant: September ~~29~~ 28 through January ~~4~~ 3, ~~2013~~ 2014. White-fronted geese: September ~~29~~ 28 through December ~~11~~ 10. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross’ geese): September ~~29~~ 28 through January ~~13~~ 12, ~~2013~~ 2014.

91.3(3) *Season dates - south zone.* Canada geese and brant: October ~~6~~ 5 through January ~~11~~ 10, ~~2013~~ 2014. White-fronted geese: October ~~6~~ 5 through December ~~18~~ 17. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross’ geese): October ~~6~~ 5 through January ~~18~~ 17, ~~2013~~ 2014.

91.3(4) Season dates - Missouri River zone. Canada geese and brant: October ~~13~~ 12 through January ~~18~~ 17, ~~2013~~ 2014. White-fronted geese: October ~~13~~ 12 through December ~~25~~ 24. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): October ~~13~~ 12 through January ~~18~~ 17, ~~2013~~ 2014.

ITEM 3. Amend subrules 91.3(8) to 91.3(11) as follows:

91.3(8) Light goose conservation order season. Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from January ~~19~~ 18, ~~2013~~ 2014, through April 15, ~~2013~~ 2014.

- a. *Zone boundaries.* Statewide.
- b. *Shooting hours.* One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- c. *Bag limit.* ~~Bag limit is 20 light geese.~~ No bag limit.
- d. *Possession limit.* No possession limit.
- e. *Other regulations.* Methods of take approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hunting light geese during the conservation order season shall be permitted.

91.3(9) Cedar Rapids/Iowa City goose hunting zone.

- a. *Season dates.* September ~~1~~ 7 through September ~~9~~ 15.
- b. to d. No change.

91.3(10) Des Moines goose hunting zone.

- a. *Season dates.* September ~~1~~ 7 through September ~~9~~ 15.
- b. to d. No change.

91.3(11) Cedar Falls/Waterloo goose hunting zone.

- a. *Season dates.* September ~~1~~ 7 through September ~~9~~ 15.
- b. to d. No change.

ITEM 4. Amend rule 571—91.6(481A) as follows:

571—91.6(481A) Youth waterfowl hunt. A special youth waterfowl hunt will be held on October ~~6 and 7, 2012~~, 5 and 6 in the north duck hunting zone, ~~and October 13 and 14, 2012~~, 12 and 13 in the south duck hunting zone, ~~and October 20 and 21, 2012~~, 19 and 20 in the Missouri River duck hunting zone. Youth hunters must be residents of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A and less than 16 years old. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt and a state waterfowl stamp. Only the youth hunter may shoot ducks and coots. The adult may hunt for any other game birds for which the season is open. The daily bag and possession limits are the same as for the regular waterfowl season, as defined in rule 571—91.1(481A). All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular waterfowl season apply to the youth hunt.